

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 117002

55

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 INRE-00 /091 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S;FBCRUMP:MM

APPROVED BY AF:WE-CHAUFELE

AF/S:RTHAVERKAMP

OES/SCI/AE:MBKRATZER

----- 093284

O R 122348Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BERN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117002

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT:SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENT ON NUCLEAR
CAPABILITY

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR
BOTH A CONCERNING SAG REQUEST FOR REVISION OF NUCLEAR AGREE-
MENT FOR COOPERATION (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL), AF ASST. SEC.
SCHAUFELE NOTED THAT A REVISION 'OULD BE SUBJECT TO CON-
GRESSIONAL SCRUTINY. HE INDICATED THAT PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER'S STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY
(MAY 17 EDITION OF NEWSWEEK) WOULD NOT MAKE TASK OF OBTAIN-
ING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL ANY EASIER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 117002

2. TEXT OF NEWSWEEK SENIOR EDITOR DE BORCHGRAVE'S QUESTION AND PM'S ANSWER AS NEWSWEEK CARRIED THEM IS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE: Q. DO SOUTH AFRI-A'S DEFENSES INCLUDE A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY? A. WE ARE ONLY IHTERESTED IN THE PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR POWER. BUT WE CAN ENRICH URANIUM, AND WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY. AND WE DID NOT SIGN THE NUCLEAR-NONPROLIFERATION TREATY. UNQUOTE.

3. AMBASSADOR BOTHA HAS NOW INFORMED DEPARTMENT, ON BASIS OF QUERY HE SENT TO HIS GOVERNMENT, THAT: QUOTE: WHILE THE NEWSWEEK TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW SHOWS THE PRIME MINISTER'S

REFERENCE TO THE NPT AS PART OF AN ANSWER TO THE SAME QUESTION, IT DID NOT OCCUR SO IN THE ACTUAL INTERVIEW. THE STATEMENT "WE DID NOT SIGN THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY" WAS IN RESPONSE TO A SEPARATE FOLLOW-UP QUESTION. UNQUOTE.

4. ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY REMAINS NOTEWORTHY, THIS "CLARIFICATION" OF HIS COMMENT A0OUT SOUTH AFRICAN NON-MEMBERSHIP IN THE NPT WOULD GIVE IT A CONSIDERABLY LESS OMINOUS RING. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE117002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760183-0965
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760561/aaaacahg.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENT ON NUCLEAR CAPABILITY
TAGS: PFOR, SF, US, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR)
To: CAPE TOWN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006